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Hawkins reflects on 13 years as senior center executive director **PAGE 4**

School board approves theater department fundraising **PAGE 8**

Author John Schu imparts wisdom to New Buffalo pupils **PAGE 18**

## BURGERS FOR ALL…

## DINERS ‘BITE INTO A LEGEND’ FOR REDAMAK’S 51ST YEAR

— PAGE 10 —

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# Fleeing driver spares officer's life in chase

BY STAN MADDUX

The life of a police officer was possibly spared by a driver leading a high speed chase that went through New Buffalo before he gave up.

Alejandro Diaz, 22, of Chicago is charged in La Porte Superior Court 4 with auto theft and resisting law enforcement, both Level 6 felonies.

According to Long Beach Police, the chase on Thursday, March 5 stemmed from a license plate reading camera in Michigan City alerting an officer to a possible stolen vehicle.

The responding officer located the 2015 Toyota Scion northbound on Indiana 212.

An attempt was made to stop the vehicle, but the driver fled at high speeds on Tryon Road before, eventually, heading east on U.S. 12 toward Michigan, police said.

Police said the pursuit continued into New Buffalo where additional officers joined in as the chase went south on Michigan 239 then west on Interstate 94 back to Indiana.

At one point, police said a Michigan City Police officer ventured out onto the Interstate to throw stop sticks in the travel lane the suspect heading toward him was in to try and flatten his tires.

However, the officer after doing so tripped and fell to the pavement.

Police said Diaz traveling over 100 miles per hour slowed down and veered around the officer then continued fleeing.

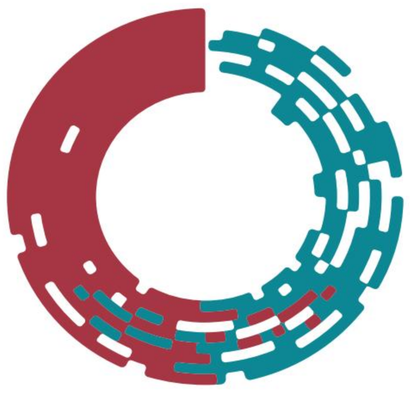
A short time later, Diaz spotted another officer placing stop sticks on the highway and stopped.

Diaz told investigators he almost struck the first officer and didn't want the second officer or anyone else to get hurt.

He was taken into custody without further incident.

According to police, Diaz said he stole the vehicle from the side of a road in Chicago and later decided to go for a drive east without no specific destination in mind.

***It's taking me a long time to stop trusting my sense impressions.***
*— Dino N. Fatouros*




# Hikers to head to Nature Study Trails

Hikers will explore NBAS Nature Study Trails at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21.

Often called the "coral reefs" of the forest, these wetlands support a high concentration of rare, threatened, and endangered species. They are considered keystone ecosystems because their influence on the surrounding landscape is much greater than their size suggests. Learn some facts about these pools from Amy Gillan, Berrien County Vernal Pool Patrol (VPP) Coordinator, and Pat Fisher, HCH President, as they explain how the vernal pools fit into our ecosystems, why they are endangered, and how community science is helping protect them. An extra mile hike is optional on drier ground.

The NBAS Nature Study Trails (NST), in combination with the adjacent Turtle Creek Preserve (TCP), a Chikaming Open Lands (COL) preserve, has over 4 miles of trails and nearly 70 acres of forested and wetland habitats. If all the trails are visited, you will see a large assortment of native flora and fauna living in harmony with ancient beachheads, wide ravines, streams, a planted prairie, marshes, floodplains, hardwood forests and seasonally wet flatwoods filled with shrub wetlands, pit and mound topology, windblow, vernal pools and rivulets. The trails are maintained by students & staff, volunteers, and the many trail structures have been added by scout members and neighborhood volunteers

HCH has an All-Terrain Rollator which may be reserved for use on our hikes. Reservations are made on a first-come first-served basis by filling out the brief form at www.harborcountryhikers.org/rollator.

Although membership is preferred, all are welcome to attend this hike. Dress for the weather, wear a hat and sturdy shoes or boots, preferred pest controls and bring plenty of water.

For more information, including driving directions, visit the Hikers' website, www.harborcountryhikers.org, or its Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

# Local Government Meetings

## New Buffalo Times

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City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD**
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
**SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY**
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
**NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY**
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**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD**
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The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP**
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD**
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
**THREE OAKS**
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
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**GRAND BEACH**
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**MICHIANA**
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Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

# Hawkins reflects on 13 years as senior center executive director

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

After 30-some years as an engineering manager at Whirlpool, Tim Hawkins said he thought he'd "retire to play golf all my life."

Then, he saw the advertisement in the paper: The River Valley Senior Center in Harbert was searching for an executive director.

"It was like a calling - I knew I should take that job," he said.

Caption: Tim Hawkins (back) with board members President Ellie Rogers, co-treasurer Evia King, Shelley Thomson, secretary Sharon Phillips and (back) Dianne Kirk and Peggy Wagner

Standing in the center that he helped transform, Hawkins was celebrating a second retirement at the age of 85 with family, friends and those who frequented the center at an open house Friday, March 6.

Hawkins said he retired from Whirlpool in 2001, although he still got called on to do contract work. After putting in a resume, he was hired at the senior center in 2013.

Writing policy and procedure and putting together a five-year strategic plan were among some of the tasks that Hawkins said the board accomplished throughout his tenure there.

"Our board has been good stewards of money here – we've never had money problems since I've been here," he said.

The center also got some of the activities going on again and started doing a lot of events and bus trips.

Currently, the center has six vans that run people to and from appointments.

"We run more transportation - helping people to medical appointments mainly - than any other senior center in Berrien County," he said.

In 2017, the center, which was former plywood doctor's office with a 1950s green tiled floor, underwent a large renovation thanks to a Pokagon Fund grant and a grant from what was then Lakeland Hospital. Hawkins said they also took out a 15-year mortgage, which was paid off in five years.

Renovations included new windows and walls and handicap doors. A fully finished lower level boasted windows looking out over the back and a place for bingos, parties Elvis shows and other big activities.

Hawkins said the center has 80 volunteers, all of whom it "thrives" on. He also thanked the following employees: Bonnie Parker, America Schmaltz, Bill Kuipers, Mike Deeds, nurse Kathy Steinke, Susan Buckinham and Ashlei Jones.

He also thanked the center's dedicated board of directors.

"We've got some good board members and that really helped get this ship going," he said.

Daughter Marci Stephenson, who was at the open house with her son, her brother Tim and her two cousins, said that Hawkins has done "so much" not just for the center but for the community at large.

"Just his integrity and how he cares so much for everyone here - he'll go up and talk to every single one here and he knows their situation," she said.

She said that Hawkins' wife, Lorrie, has also been instrumental in bringing the center to life again. On the hospitality committee, she organized events and helped with parties.

When he hands the reins over to the new executive director, Hawkins said he'll help in any way that he can.

"I want this place to succeed...It's been a good run, and I leave her with a lot of pride over accomplishments over the last 13 years," he said.

Since 1973, The River Valley Senior Center has been serving seniors in a service area that encompasses Bridgman, New Buffalo, Lakeside, Union Pier, Sawyer, Harbert, Three Oaks, New Troy, Grand Beach, and Galien.

Per the website, its mission is to "offer residents in our area 60 years and older a range of educational, recreational, social, transportation and referral services."

***People almost invariably arrive at their beliefs not on the basis of proof but on the basis of what they find attractive.*** *— Blaise Pascal*

# Get local help with your Medicare questions

I'm Marcie Ritter, a licensed sales agent in Southwest Michigan/Northern Indiana. When it comes to Medicare, it's important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I'm ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs. **Make the most of my knowledge and experience to:**

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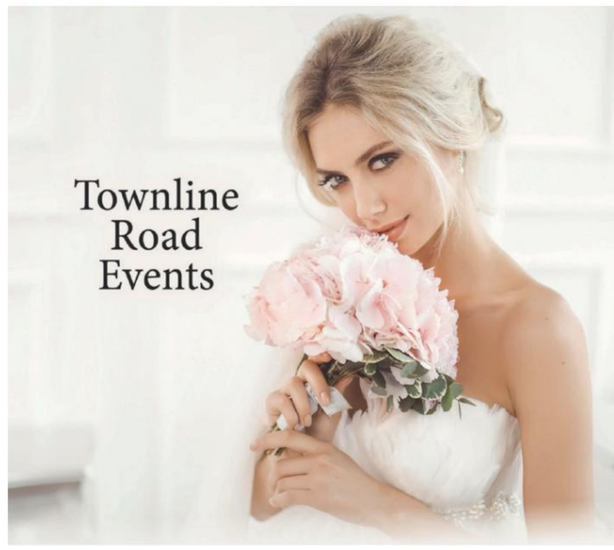




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# Bison Blue Players to present 'The Wizard of Oz'

The Bison Blue Players, New Buffalo Area Schools' student theater program, will present the classic musical, "The Wizard of Oz," March 20–22 at the New Buffalo High School Auditorium, continuing a long-standing tradition of student-led theater in the district.

This year's production brings together performers from across New Buffalo schools, with an ensemble of more than 20 students from across the district, including fourth and fifth graders and middle school performers, who will join high school actors on stage. The collaboration gives younger students the opportunity to work alongside experienced performers, while highlighting the strong performing arts culture within the district.

Leading the cast is Angelina Bryk as Dorothy, joined by Henry Gadiel as the Scarecrow, Kellen Fallon as the Tin Man, Riley Castle-Brow as Glinda, and Bianca Illescas-Villa as the Wicked Witch of the West.

The production is directed by Christina Beushausen, with choreography by Amanda Tosetti. Set design is by Dwayne Whitmyer, and costumes were designed by Deb Rancatore and Eliza Shook, helping bring the imaginative world of Oz to life on stage.

The Bison Blue Players program provides students opportunities to develop skills in acting, singing, dancing and technical theater, while building connections across grade levels. Each spring musical showcases the creativity and dedication of New Buffalo students, both on stage and behind the scenes.

Community members are invited to attend and support the talented young performers as they bring this beloved story to life.

Performances are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 20-21 and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 22. — STAFF REPORTS

Abigail Lumley, Johnna Rochefort, Clayton Burk and Addyson Frazier

Second Runner-up Abigail Lumley reads to students

Mr. Three Oaks and River Valley Clayton Burk reads to students

# Students enjoy a royal story time

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BRITTNEY SHERRILL

Members of the Three Oaks/River Valley Royal Court took the time out of their schedules to read to students at Three Oaks Elementary School Tuesday, March 10.

Members of the communities' various courts will travel to schools to read to students throughout this month, which is March is Reading Month. — STAFF REPORTS

Miss Three Oaks and River Valley 2026 Johnna Rochefort reads to elementary students

The Three Oaks and River Valley Royal Court poses with River Valley Elementary students

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# SCHOLASTICS

## School board approves theater department fundraising

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Students will now have the chance to expand their horizons in the world of theater after the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education approved fundraising for that department at their Monday, March 9, meeting.

Teacher Chris Beushausen said the Blue Bison Theatre Player Troupe 11980 was asking to fundraise for the Michigan Thespian Conference in December as well as having a live pit of musicians for musicals, food for Tech Week and after the final performance and basic individual costume requirements.

The two-night conference in East Lansing allows students to meet with fellow thespians from across the state, watch Mainstage shows and audition for a Thespy, which is like a theater-themed Solo and Ensemble Contest. Beushausen said a couple students auditioned for a Thepsy and received an "excellent" rating.

The first year, Beushausen said she obtained a $1500 META grant that covered 12 students, plus her expenses. Last year, eight families had to pay for registration and lodging, and students paid for their own food, although a $2000 NB Arts Council Grant covered the cost of Performing Arts Center Director Dwayne Whitmyer and Beushausen, plus one Troupe dinner.

"That's what prompting me to be here tonight - for students to be able fundraise so we don't have to say no to any of those kids, and they can all come," she said.

Regarding a live pit, Beushausen said many schools hire professional musicians to play music, with student instrumentalists not being able to play the first part of the instrument. Students can play the second and third parts and sit in with the professional musician.

For the first fundraising idea, TeamFI, students would create a webpage. Families can add at least 20 phone numbers to the page, and TeamFI would send four text messages within a two-week period to those numbers. After a contact has donated, the texts stop. Contacts can ask for the texts to stop if they don't want to donate. After two weeks, the Troupe would receive 100 percent of the profits, excluding the credit card processing fee. Donations would be credited to each student to use for Thespian Festival or any other performing arts camps/private lessons. A General Fund webpage will be created for those that want to donate to the program through this fundraiser

Students were also asking if they could take donations at the "The Wizard of Oz" performances next week, with donations going to the Student Activity Account to support general needs.

High School Principal Tracy Ripley gave an update on the status of achieving school improvement goals, which come from a once-a-year Studer survey of staff, parents and students.

To increase math and ELA scores, Ripley said that Tier 2 students are placed with a teacher in a content area with which they're struggling based on last spring's testing data during Advisory. Tier 3 students are paired with a teacher based on fall data.

Ripley said that the board allowed all juniors to take a practice SAT last fall.

Monthly data meetings with each core content area teacher, which allow them to formulate a plan to support struggling students and identify their needs within content areas, are also held.

The Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum ensures all core curriculum and elective classes are aligned with state standards, classroom resources are supporting those standards and that the school's formative and summative assessments are rigorous and balanced

Regarding the second goal, which is to "ensure that organizational-level resources are allocated to maximize effectiveness across the organization," Ripley said that she's been reviewing the annual budget at the beginning of the year and attaching it to every month's staff meeting agenda.

The third goal, which is to "increase positive contact between school and families," has included implementing a new communication program, Bloomz, to families and positive emails being sent from teachers to parents. The Wellness Team has also been a part of parent/teacher conferences. A FAFSA/Financial Aid/College Representative Workshop, which included three colleges and 10 families attended, was also recently held.

Regarding the school's PBIS - Academic/Attendance Rewards, 13 seniors visited Six Flags Great America based on their 11th grade SAT, MStep and Workkeys test scores

Trimester Rewards Assemblies, held three times a year, recognize students who've achieved Honor Roll, Progressive Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance.

Regarding class of 2026 academic data, Ripley said 35 students tested for the SAT and scored 1045, higher than the state average, which is higher than the state average at 1010.

In 2025, NBHS was recognized for the second time for the AP School Honor Roll as a Bronze school.

Board members approved the Apple Inc. Education quote for the lease of district transition to all iPads in the amount of $225,888.

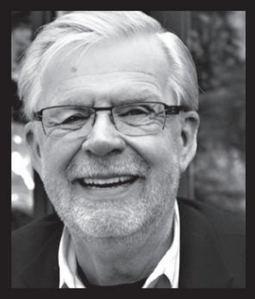
Currently, pre-K through first grade has iPads, second through eighth grade has Chromebooks and ninth through 12th grade has MacBooks.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that plan is for ninth through 12th graders to keep their current devices and then they'd transition pre-K through eighth grade would have iPads. Hopefully, all grades will eventually have one.

Board members approved the estimate for the Retaining Wall Project from Nesci Landscapes, Inc. for $74,270, for the baseball/softball field area.

# From the Bleachers

**COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO**



Throughout the years of writing this column, I've made every attempt to be positive.

Sometimes, teams, or people, got me so frustrated that I was unable to get past whatever was irritating me, and I would lash out, but almost every week, a nice story would pop up, and I would happily write about it.

I must admit that the majority of my musings have been about the Cubs and the Bears, because even if they weren't doing well, my cockeyed optimism had me thinking they would turn things around soon.

The Sox, Bulls and the Blackhawks are different stories.

The owner of the Sox and Bulls seems indifferent, and the bottom line seems much more important than the results on the field or court. The Blackhawks were my darlings for a while, and hopefully they will be again, but even though a great young player, Connor Bedard, fell into their laps, the rebuilding cycle is happening again this season. Hopefully Bedard will be able to lead the team back into contention before he gets frustrated and asks to leave town.

So what's a writer to do? Baseball season is just around the corner. Fans of every nationality are excited to be watching the World Baseball Classic. Half of the city's with teams are excited to start the regular season while the other half know that their team can't compete. The Minnesota Twins are trying to drum up enthusiasm by selling beer for $2.00 (probably not a bad idea) and the St. Louis Cardinals are going to offer an all you can eat and drink for $29.95 package to bring fans back to their ballpark. Chicago is lucky to have two teams, even though only one seems to be seriously competing. I love baseball and am looking forward to a great season.

On to the sport that seems to be light years ahead of the others.

The NFL is the talk of the sporting world once again. The Super Bowl has been over for about a month, and logically the enthusiasm for the game would have died down by now. However, football defies logic. The people in charge of the league have spread out every off the field event to keep the sport front page news all year long.

Free agency started Monday, but it has been talked about since the Super Bowl ended. The draft will be held near the end of April, training camp in July, and the regular season rolls around again near the end of August. All of these happenings are surrounded by what effect they will have on your favorite team.

Because teams can rise and fall significantly, the importance of managing the salary cap, getting the best free agents for your team, and drafting well are all important. Just ask the Bears. Of course, having a great coach and a franchise quarterback sure helps.

Winston Churchill said, "They say that nobody is perfect. Then they tell you practice makes perfect. I wish they'd make up their minds."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

***There's one thing everyone should understand: I like my character.*** *— Dennis Rodman*

# Another dispensary marijuana arrest in Indiana

**BY STAN MADDUX**

A Chicago woman wound up behind bars after allegedly found in the Michigan City area with dispensary marijuana.

La Porte County Police said the woman was pulled over during the afternoon on Sunday, March 8 for traveling 10 to 15 miles per hour below the speed limit on Indiana 212 along with erratic lane movement.

During the traffic stop, police said an officer detected an odor of marijuana.

In response, police said the driver, Uylanda Gaston, admitted there was marijuana inside a bag on her front passenger seat.

Initially, she didn't want to hand the bag over to the officer, saying she purchased the marijuana in Michigan and was heading back to Illinois.

Marijuana can be legally purchased from dispensaries in both states.

However, when informed marijuana was still against the law in Indiana, Gaston gave the officer the bag containing more than two ounces of the leafy substance in two separate packages, police said.

The bag contained the name of a dispensary along U.S. 12 a few miles west of the New Buffalo city limits.

Gaston, who was booked into the La Porte County Jail, could face an up to six month jail sentence on the Class B misdemeanor offense.

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# Diners 'Bite Into a Legend' for Redamak's 51st year

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Seeing as how it was Redamak's 51st anniversary, Jeffrin Lain decided the time had come to make the trek to the iconic burger place on opening day.

Jeffrin, who, with her daughter Jordan and Adam DeBoer, were second in the line that formed on the restaurant's front porch and spilled out onto the lawn along U.S. Highway 12 Thursday, March 5.

Jeffrin said they'd been coming there since her daughter could walk.

"We love the burgers – it's just been a tradition for over 30 years," she said.

For the third year in a row, Mindy Greenfield and father, Tim Ames, had managed to secure the coveted first-in-line spot.

While Mindy said they'd been coming to Redamak's for years, it was only recently when they'd made the trek to be first on opening day.

"It started off as just a Father's Day tradition and then it just kept going more and more and more," Mindy, who said they come at least 10 times a year there, said.

While Mindy has the famous cheeseburger, Kim opts for the fish

"The owner told me they have a contract with a fisher – he catches Lake Perch here on Lake Michigan and they bring it here and sell it," he said.

Chuck Maroney, who's the son of Jim and Angie, who took over the restaurant in 1975, said that the menu is "pretty much the same" this year.

He said that they've been focusing on giving diners food that's made with the most quality ingredients.

"Since Covid the staffing has been an issue so with that, we've had to scale the menu down - at this point, we feel comfortable where it's at," he said, adding that they're "just trying to keep it simple."

The 5 and 1/3-ounce Bison Burger has remained popular, as well as the 8-ounce Ultimate Gourmet Burgers, which include a BBQ Burger, Bleu Burger, Buffalo Street Burger and Wilson Street Burger.

Maroney said that 25 new employees will be joining Redamak's family this year, and that they'll probably be looking for a new group in May.

"They're friends outside of work and they're coworkers here," Maroney said

Employees get a feel for how it is to work in each department, he said.

"They're not just going to be a server - we'll ask them to do a shift on the hostess counter, maybe a shift in the kitchen and then they'll still have three or four server shifts," Maroney said.

Having been a server at Redamak's for 45 years, Debra Robertson is more than familiar with every nook and cranny of the restaurant.

"It's my life – it's my family, this is my family she said.

Even after being there for decades, Robertson still experiences first day jitters.

"Even though I've been doing it for 45 years it's still a little nerve wrecking because I always think, 'Am I going to mess up?'" she said.

Among her first customers this year were cousin, Kevin Harrington, who was there with his wife, Cathy.

"We try to get her section every time she comes in – she's a great server with a great attitude," he said.

According to its website, Redamak's was started by George and Gladys Redamak in 1946.

For about three years, Jim had a running joke with Gladys to "just give me a call" if she ever decided to sell the restaurant. That call came in the fall of 1974. On July 15, 1975, he and Angie took over the business.

The restaurant at 616 East Buffalo St. in New Buffalo is open from noon to 9 p.m. Thursday through Monday, For more information, visit www.redamaks.com.

A line forms outside of Redamak's on opening day

Brandon Gremauz enjoys his first burger of the season

The Forker and Edwards families enjoy the first burgers of the season

A line forms inside of Redamak's on opening day.

Debra Robertson serves cousin Kevin Harrington on the first day of her 45th year

The kitchen crew makes the first burgers of the season

The New Buffalo Animal Hospital secures its usual table on the screened in porch

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# From the Dish Pit...

## A HIGHSCHOOLER'S TAKE ON REAL LIFE TOPICS

BY SYLVIE DARLING

Into the Pit

Growing up, I can hardly remember a time when my dad didn't own a coffee shop. It all started in 2016, when Sawyer, Michigan, offered little more than a large truck stop, a greasy gas station, and a questionable corner store. My dad drove us past these businesses and over a ridge of sloping train tracks that wrapped their arms around a side of Sawyer I never knew existed. There, I discovered a modest post office, a flourishing garden store, and a cluster of quaint little shops.

My dad pulled his car past an old fire station and into the faded parking spots of a building labeled "Infusco Coffee Roasters." At that time, these words meant nothing to me. Now, they signify a place where locals flock, where young creatives garner inspiration, and where Chicago families seek respite from the bustle of city life. This shop wove itself into my upbringing, marking the ages of 7 to 12 with the swirling of coffee chaffs on the rooftop, the screaming of the steam wand, and the clinking of dishes in the bus bin. However, up until last summer, I had only experienced life from one side of the counter.

Somewhere around that time, my dad asked me if I was ready to earn real money. I eagerly accepted the offer and began my coffee career in the typical starting position: the Dish pit. At Infusco, the Dish pit is less of a pit and more of a small, nook-like room which holds a drying rack and a set of deep stainless steel sinks.

I spent most of the summer in this 3-by-3 cube, shuffling back and forth between sinks while the cycle of voices at the register informed my thoughts. I would dip down into the foam for a dish and catch a gravelly voice drone on about Elon Musk or student debt or the bipolar weather, all while I scrubbed at the brown ring of an espresso mug. These snippets of conversation stuck with me, sparking interest in topics I'd never considered. What did I think about growing up in the digital era? Or the difference between my generation and the next? Or the quirks about Southwest Michigan?

In the next few columns, I will explore some of these topics and the way I interact with them in my everyday life. And with enough scrubbing and rinsing and washing, maybe they will start to come clean.

# A Writer's Life...

## DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

I touch a nerve and get a red-hot curve ball

Driving back to DIC, Lori filled me in on Predicaments. She said Kevin would be the producer. As I've said, Kevin was an upbeat production exec, always happy. I often saw him chatting with Andy which told me where he stood in the studio's hierarchy.

At the studio, I hurried to my office to blast through editing the final Popples script. But my officemate, Bobby Logan, was repeatedly asking me about the Mattel meeting. I didn't want to say too much, knowing to keep a lid on the project until I was given the go-ahead to talk about it. But I felt it was okay to at least tell him I'd be working with Joan Rivers on a live action project.

When I did, Bobby's eyes went wide, his nostrils flaring as if he'd caught a glimpse of a three hundred foot tsunami bearing down on him as he stood on the hot sand at Venice Beach. In a way-too-loud voice he cried, "JOAN RIVERS?!!! I worked with Joan! I wrote material for her! We've got a history!" I'm not sure what Bobby expected me to say. I wasn't sure there was anything I wanted say.

He stood, pacing with, "I'm sure Joan would want to work with me. I wish Lori'd looked at my resume. It's right there on it: 'Joan Rivers!'"

It occurred to me I was on this project because Kevin had asked Lori if she'd let him use me. I decided this, however, was not the best time to bring that up. Finally, I picked up the Popples script on my desk and said, "I have to get this script finished."

Not looking at me, Bobby mumbled, "Yeah..."

After I handed in the final Popples script to Lori, I headed to Kevin's office, eager for his briefing on Predicaments. Kevin was kicked back, feet up on his desk in relaxed California surfer-mode. He was excited to have Joan signed on, as well as Gordon Jump and Emmy Award-winning comedian Arte Johnson (Rowan & Martin's Laugh In).

Kevin gave me an overview of Predicaments which, as I learned at the Mattel meeting, was to be a combination of soap operas and the Clue boardgame with the added bonus of it being viewer interactive. Kevin said the first step was for me to familiarize myself with Predicaments' characters. Then I'd move to writing a treatment and, after revisions, a teleplay for the project. At the same time he'd begin casting for the various roles. I was delighted when he said he wanted me to sit in on the casting sessions. I was starting to think I was right that this was going to be fun.

Then Kevin threw me an unexpected curve, explaining I'd be working with a second writer, Jeff Rose. During my time at the studio I'd come to at least know the names of most of the writers working on DIC series. But Jeff Rose was one I hadn't heard before. So I realized it had to be someone Kevin had brought in from outside.

I thought it was possible he was a soap opera writer. While I ordinarily worked alone, my experience working on Popples with Bobby – despite the tension when he learned I would be writing for Joan Rivers – had been largely positive. Bouncing ideas and jokes off each other was something I enjoyed. I was hoping the same would be true working with this new writer, Jeff Rose.

Kevin suggested we meet him...right now.

# HOROSCOPE

## MARCH 12-18, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

**ARIES** MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Your perceptions and gut instincts will be very accurate and even though you will be feeling very secretive, there is a need to be more forthcoming with others. Take the initiative to balance the power dimensions in your dealings with others. Take more control and avoid being passive.

**TAURUS** APRIL 20—MAY 20

Even though work and household obligations are beckoning, you will be feeling the need to explore or get away from rigid routines this week. Make a commitment with yourself to be with friends and get out more, or get together to discuss unusual topics or study historical happenings.

**GEMINI** MAY 21—JUNE 21

Things could get very dramatic now and you could be part of that mix of craziness but there is real value in the things you are saying or doing. By being more direct or confrontational, you will definitely rock the boat, but you will also clear the air and get everything out in the open.

**CANCER** JUNE 22—JULY 22

Reconnect with yourself and open up to sharing your talents and gift with people. This is the time to embrace what distinguishes you from others and embrace it as a gift, rather than something you need to keep hidden. Harness your power and use it to further your financial standings.

**LEO** JULY 23—AUGUST 22

You may be a bit stubborn or bull headed this week and will not want to bend on issues surrounding the home and family, but it is time to embrace a new approach to domestic issues. Tough habits and long-standing routines may be hard to break but you can forge new and more efficient path now.

**VIRGO** AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

This is a great week to get more involved in your relationships. Whether you get engaged or just take the next step towards exclusivity, be sure to be very clear about where you want the relationship to end up or what goals you would like to accomplish together. Share your hopes and dreams.

**LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

This is a good week to go inward and get in touch with you goals and desires. Any modifications you can make that will align your inner desires with you career will increase your productivity and relationships with coworkers. The real happiness happens when you're true to yourself.

**SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

The situation this week will not only bring you more confidence and security but will also make you more sensitive and aware of the effect you have on others. There may be some things about yourself you were not aware of or were in denial about but you will feel strengthened by it now.

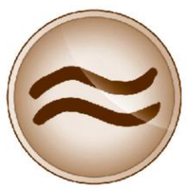
**SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

This is a good week to reconnect with family and deepen emotional connections with them. It's important you stay true to your uniqueness and are open with others about your feelings and opinions. By being honest about your observations you will maintain your individuality.

**CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

You will be bringing a lot out into the open now and exposing others to the truth, which may not be comfortable for them but necessary for the changes that are coming in. You will have a strong ability to pinpoint where weaknesses are and what can be done to strengthen or modify them.

**AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



A lot is shifting now and the things you identify with or feel are important to your life may undergo some revisions. It is important to be flexible and open, and to release attachments to physical items. Some of you fundamental likes and dislikes will be modified. Be prepared to change.

**PISCES** FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

You will feel much more at ease with your living situation or familial surroundings now. It's like you finally found where you fit into the picture or where to draw the boundaries for a more comfortable experience when dealing with family. Any issues with relatives can be healed.

***To change a habit, make a conscious decision, then act out the new behavior.*** — *Maxwell Maltz*

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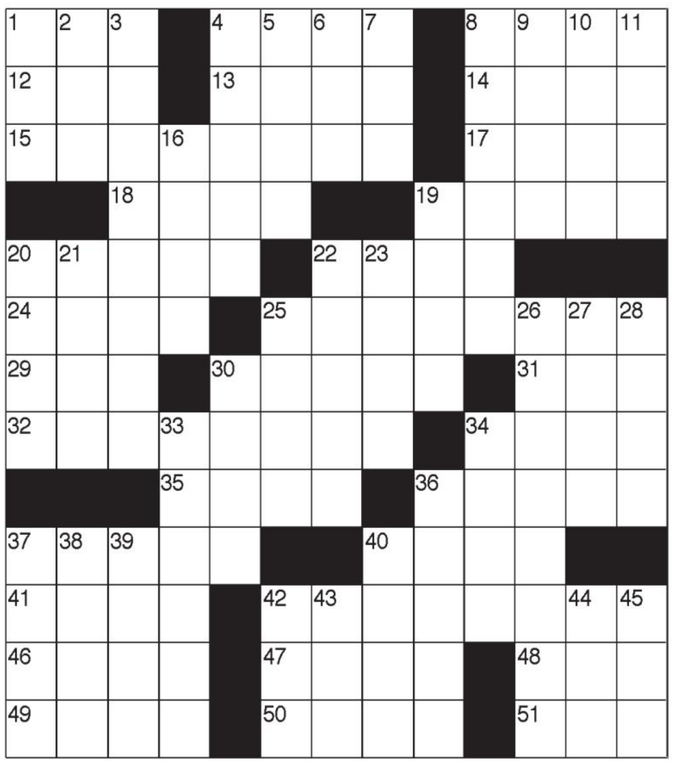
## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 Drunk driving (abbr.)
4 Gooseberry
8 Eastern bishop's title
12 Belonging to (suf.)
13 King Atahualpa
14 Wife of Jacob
15 Jeopardize
17 Compel
18 Adjective-forming (suf.)
19 Indian memorial post
20 Stopping train
22 Leglike part
24 Irish exclamation
25 Eidola
29 Ran into
30 Sputnik dog
31 7 (Rom. numeral)
32 Can
34 Euphemistic oath
35 Before (Lat.)
36 Father of Abraham
37 Rust
40 Freedman in Kentish law
41 Study
42 Par
46 Deep cut
47 River through Florence and Pisa
48 Scot. jackdaw
49 Flightless bird
50 Wild mango fruit
51 Last Queen of Spain

**DOWN**

1 River into the North Sea
2 Haggard
3 Denote
4 Last
5 Anglican (abbr.)
6 Before common era (abbr.)
7 Lug
8 About
9 Rhythmical accent
10 Roast
11 Attention-getting sound
16 Academy (abbr.)
19 Tunny
20 Light
21 Polish border river
22 Onionlike plant
23 Gardening tool
25 Allowance
26 Pass
27 Transparent mineral
28 Hindu sect
30 Marquisette
33 Hindu holy man
34 Obey
36 Kava bowl
37 Insist
38 Countersink
39 Expedite
40 Thin
42 Blue
43 Three (pref.)
44 Bled
45 Drug Enforcement Admin. (abbr.)



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# A Day in the Life

## RANDOM THOUGHTS...

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

There comes a time when one should assess one's life. Mine isn't now. It matters somewhat when you aspire to do greater things in life when you know you have been less than perfect duringthis time we spend on earth.

I just had a couple over to give them a gift. He's a hundred and two and she is eighty seven. They have never been with anyone else! The fact is that neither one looks their age and they both have an extraordinary zest for life. She still gardens and works on their nice lawn and he still plays his French horn nearly daily. When he was in the service he played his horn with the Army band. I went to visit them a couple of years ago and I noticed he had a collection of horns on the wall overhead. I asked about them and he got one down and began playing it, I thought "this is strange", Did I expect a concert when I landed here in their house? I didn't and I remember being somewhat embarrassed by the scene until I fortunately took an assessment of my feelings and decided I was the strange one. Dick played on for several songs and then his darling wife got up and mounted the huge old fashioned organ and I was privileged to my own little concert. It was amazing once I got over thinking it was weird because I am basically a snob when it comes to experiences. There are some that are exceptional and some that are not. I first thought my little concert of horn and organ did not meet my standards for "cool". Sometimes I truly hate myself. I had had the exceptional private concert played especially for me and I almost blew it because I was thinking it was not "cool". Thank god old age values finally kicked in and I was blown away, finally.

I have an interesting life you might say. I just had a call from my best friend in California, my best friend anywhere. He is profoundly influenced by the fact that he was raised by his grandparents and his grandfather was a judge. It was not an unpleasant life, just maybe not as much affection as Greg would have liked. His mother, after all, gave him away, she didn't want him anymore. That is a challenging situation no matter how old you are. He was only seven. It came to pass that he did love his new parents, but they were of a different stripe than his mother whom he missed terribly. He could not accept that she had dumped him from her life. He recalls crying on one of the judges up stairs closets over the rejection of his mother and to this day he is pained by that fact. She had no contact with him after dumping him with the judge and his wife. None. For which he has had that emotional scar all of his life. It still pains him to think of it at age 89. That is not to mention he is also a Drama Queen, He truly is, He can add drama to the simplest of circumstances and be believing his every dramatic word. He is a pistol.

He doesn't have good luck with women you might say. He was with a woman for 17 years and while he was in the hospital she moved out of their Malibu house with her beefie friend and took everything except the 8 pets that she left in their deluxe pet home. Greg came home and found the pets only. She took all of the furniture, paintings, and art, 8 storage units of additional furniture and paintings, etc. including all of the family photos and collectibles. She and her thug boyfriend got it all. He was by then so shocked and discouraged that he gave up on recovery and lawsuits and moved into a collection of hotels and motels until they kicked him out because of the animals. He ran up bills in a dozen. When they kicked him out he took all of the linens and to this day, 15 years later, he has linens enough for 20 bedrooms.

What is his situation today? By the luck of the Irish he has several homes and castles that he plays with, but chooses to live in a one bedroom apartment that he feels "at home" in after all of what he has been through. That's my best friend of fifty some years. It takes one to attract one. Not that there is any comparison, but we have been friends all of these long years.

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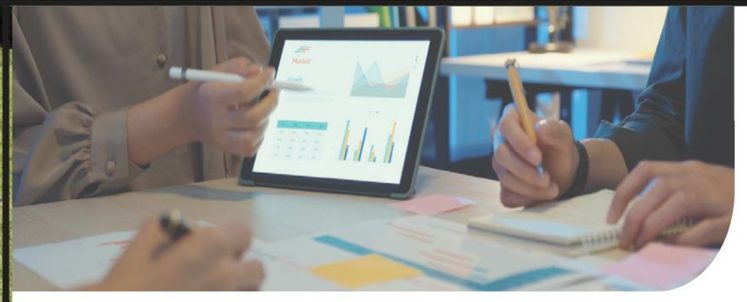
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# To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

## BENEFITS OF A FEVER

Fever has a purpose. It raises the bodies temperature so the bone marrow begins to make more red and white blood cells. Our bodies create a fever to kill off harmfulpathogens that are causing illness. Fevers increasephagocytosis (the ability of white blood cells to hunt and eat unhealthy invaders).

A fever is not a disease of itself like many thinks. It is a powerful adaptive defense tool that helps your body heal from infections. While it may be uncomfortable, it is the aid to your recovery. A fever turns on genes that are responsible for the immune response.

Our bodies are so smart and knows exactly what to do if we don't interfere. During a fever our body turns on a "Nutrient Starvation for Germs" This leads to a temporary reduction in blood levels of iron, zinc, and manganese. Since many pathogens need these minerals to grow and replicate, your body effectively starves them out. How intelligent is this?! If you suppress the fever, this ability is totally shut off.

Many professionals agree that it is beneficial to let the fever run it's course, rather than taking fever-reducing medications like acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen. Lowering the temperature prematurely can extend the duration of the illness by making it easier for the bacteria to survive.

If you do have a fever, the most important thing that you can do, is HYDRATE. Drink copious amounts of water or herbal teas and vegetable broths. Coconut water is another beneficial fluid to drink during a fever. It is full of electrolytes.

If a fever is persistent and running higher, sit in a tepid tub of water. This also reduces a fever naturally. Use washcloths on the back of the neck and face. Keep splashing this water over the skin to keep it hydrated on the outside, while drinking fluids to keep the inside hydrated.

Rushing to the emergency room with a fever can be a problem in itself. You may sit in the ER for hours, and the most they may do is give you Tylenol. It may reduce the fever temporarily, but it will come right back. The fever is there to kill pathogens. If it has not yet done its job, the fever returns. The time wasted at the hospital; you could have been home resting, hydrating internal and external and allowing your body to heal. When you suppress a fever with chemicals, you have now assured that your body will run a higher fever the next time you are ill. Altering your bodies natural capabilities is interference. Your body knows how to heal when you give it the right circumstances.

When the toxins burn out of the body from a fever, the fever goes away. Your body has healed from its own natural resources.

Of course, use your judgment on when there is true need for a hospital. While most fevers are beneficial, extremely high or prolonged fevers should be managed by a healthcare professional.

*Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.*

# PET OF THE WEEK

## DREAM

**Dream would love to find someone who will cherish him and make him the most important part of their day. He is almost two years old, weighs about 50 pounds, and is neutered with vaccinations up-to-date. Dream would do well as the sole pet in the home, and older children are ok. Dream knows his basic commands, and loves exercise. He would love it if his people were home a good portion of the day. Make Dream part of your home today.**

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McKenna Bowers interacts with author John Schu

John Schu speaks to New Buffalo Middle School students

John Schu signs books for middle schoolers

# Author John Schu imparts wisdom to New Buffalo pupils

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

When he was in the eighth grade, a "very, very loud, negative voice" had taken up residence inside of John Schu.

Consistently, the voice beat a drum of doubt inside of his head: "You are a worthless person," "You are a horrible person," "Why did you get a 99 percent on your English test – you should've gotten a 100 percent" and "When are you going to be more perfect?"

"For a long time, I listened to that really, really negative voice," Schu said to New Buffalo middle schoolers in the Performing Arts Center Tuesday, March 10.

For two years, Schu spent time in a hospital for anorexia nervosa, as well as OCD, clinical depression and profound anxiety.

It's an experience that he traces in his middle-grade New York Times Best Seller, "Louder Than Hunger."

The semi-autobiographical book is written in free verse, with Schu saying that he fell in love with poetry in his childhood.

Per the book's narrator, 13-year-old Jake Stacey, the negative voice had talked "nonstop it has since the middle of seventh grade. It's louder than the hunger in my stomach."

At Linden Oaks Hospital for anorexia nervosa in the 1990s, the 13-year-old Schu was interviewed, via satellite, by none other than famed talk show host, Oprah Winfrey.

"I told Oprah, among like 7 billion people: I wasn't strong enough to get better; I didn't want to get better - getting better meant talking back to the negative voice, something I didn't think I could ever do," Schu said.

Schu struggled and struggled until, one day, he "started to do the work."

Schu said to himself: "Maybe one day I'll write a story about the pain of my past, maybe my story can help others and maybe I won't disappoint Oprah this time."

The world of stories, libraries and musicals helped Schu "find my place in this complicated world."

"Louder Than Hunger" is dedicated to his "really, really positive" grandmother, who bought him one of his favorite books growing up, "Goofy's Big Race," which contained the following refrain: "Slow and steady, steady and slow, that's the way we always go."

"I would repeat that like a song over and over again inside of my brain," Schu said.

Schu told students he's a reader because of people in his life: his grandmother and teachers, counselors and principals "like yours."

As a sixth grader, he read all of Mary Downing Hahn's books. Like an anchor amidst his sea of troubles, after being diagnosed with OCD in 1995, he clung to the poetry of Emily Dickenson for comfort.

Years later, Schu would become a school librarian and become the Ambassador of School Libraries for Scholastic Book Fairs for school libraries, where he'd travel 300,000 miles every year all over the world visiting libraries and giving away books (something that he did throughout his presentation at New Buffalo).

His love of libraries garnered him an appearance on CBS This Morning, which caught the attention of Oprah: "Bravo, Mr. Schu!"

Before attending library school, he taught for two years in South Korea and then was a third and fourth grade teacher in Oak Brook, Illinois. Currently, he's a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University and a children's librarian at Bookelicious.

Schu has come a long way since his tumultuous growing up years. Still, he felt it was important to tell that story.

"I still feel all the feelings I had when I was 13 and 14 but what was hard was, I had relive that pain and I had to go back and be 14 years old again and I had to be 15 again - but it really, really helped me," he said.

As stated in its Forward by fellow New York Times Best-selling author Kate DiCamillo, reading the book might prompt readers "to reveal your heart, tell someone your truth."

"Telling your story can save your life. It may save someone else's life, too."

Teacher Mary Cooper said that she saw Schu at a conference at the Michigan Reader's Association Conference.

"The kids loved it because it just has few words on a page and I think some of them could relate to the content," she said.

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